

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01

MMO-01 NEA-10 /073 W

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O R 201257Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8259

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 00911

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: UK, SE, IO

SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS

REF: STATE 010677

1. ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE SEYCHELLES CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AT MARLBOROUGH HOUSE PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY TED ROWLANDS INFORMED COMBINED SEYCHELLOIS DELEGATIONS OF THE US AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO THE RETURN TO SEYCHELLES OF ALDABRA, DES ROCHES, AND FARQUHAR SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS OUTLINED IN REFTEL. THE SEYCHELLES DELEGATION EXPRESSED THE FOLLOWING REACTIONS TO THOSE CONDITIONS:

- A) THE SEYCHELLOIS AGREE TO CONTINUATION OF THE SATELLITE CONTROL FACILITY ON MAHE SUBJECT TO SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TERMS OF ITS USE;
- B) THEY AGREE TO THE "REGULAR USE" BY US/UK MILITARY AIRCRAFT OF MAHE CIVIL AIRPORT ASSUMING THAT THIS MEANS "NORMAL USE" SUBJECT TO THE NORMAL CLEARANCE PROCEDURES THAT HAVE BEEN FOLLOUED IN THE PAST;

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- C) THEY AGREE TO THE DENIAL OF "USE BY HOSTILE

POWERS" OF NOT ONLY THE THREE ISLANDS BUT THE
ENTIRE ARCHIPELAGO;
D) THEY AGREE TO THE USE OF THE THREE ISLANDS AGAIN
PROVIDED "IF REQUIRED" MEANS "IN AN EMERGENCY."

2. THE UK AND SEYCHELLES DELEGATIONS HAVE AGREED TO THE
FOLLOWING FORMULATION FOR PUBLIC USE IN DISCUSSING THE
QUESTION WHICH WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE CONFERENCE REPORT
AND IN THE PRESS COMMUNIQUE LIKELY TO BE RELEASED JANUARY
22: "THE CONFERENCE AGREED, IN PRINCIPLE, TO THE TRANS-
FER OF THE ISLANDS OF ALDABRA, DES ROCHES, AND FARQUHAR
TO SEYCHELLES SOVEREIGNTY BEFORE INDEPENDENCE. THIS
WOULD BE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS WHICH, ALTHOUGH ALSO A-
GREED IN PRINCIPLE, REQUIRE FURTHER CLARIFICATION AT A
TRIPARTITE MEETING TO BE HELD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT AT
ALL EVENTS IN TIME FOR THE ISSUE TO BE FINALLY RESOLVED
BEFORE INDEPENDENCE."

3. SPEAKING INFORMALLY, BOTH LAWRENCE O'KEEFFE, HEAD OF
HONG KONG AND INDIAN OCEAN DEPARTMENT, AND DENIS GRENNAN,
CALLAGHAN'S SPECIAL ADVISER ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS AND A
CLOSE CONFIDANT OF JAMES MANCHAM. SAID THEY SUSPECTED THE
SEYCHELLES LEADERS HAD NOT FULLY THOUGHT THROUGH THE IM-
PLICATIONS OF THE CONDITIONS OUTLINED TO THEM. IN FACT,
MANCHAM AND RENE WERE PROBABLY SO RELIEVED TO LEARN THAT
THEY HAD WON THEIR BASIC OBJECTIVE THAT THE STRINGS AT-
TACHED HAVE YET TO BE PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD. IT IS LIKELY
THAT IN THE TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE THE SEYCHELLES DELEGA-
TION WILL DEMAND A MORE PRECISE DEFINITION OF "REGULAR
USE" OF MAHE CIVIL AIRPORT. ALTHOUGH AGREED IN PRINCIPLE,
THEY WILL PROBABLY WISH TO REACH AN UNDERSTANDING THAT
THE USE OF THE AIRPORT BY US AND UK MILITARY AIRCRAFT
WILL NOT BE TOO WIDELY DIVERGENT FROM WHAT HAS OCCURRED
IN THE PAST.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: FOREIGN OFFICE URGENTLY REQUIRES
USG CONCURRENCE FOR THE PUBLIC STATEMENT QUOTED IN PARA-
GRAPH TWO ABOVE. WOULD APPRECIATE APPROVAL NO LATER THAN
CLOSE OF BUSINESS JANUARY 21.

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